



Gospel Community Notes & Questions

Title: The Practice of Worship

Text: 1 Chronicles 16:23-34

Theme: Worship is the response of all that we are to all that God is, all that God has done, and all that God promises.

Teaching Notes: Worship – what is it? If we think of worship as little more than worship *services* and worship *music*, we're barely scratching the surface. Worship is looking to someone or something as our source of identity/self, safety, satisfaction, or salvation. Worship glorifies someone or something by giving it authority in your life. When directed at God, worship is giving back to him everything he is worthy of – which is inclusive of our whole lives.

Outline:

1. The Meaning of Worship.

- The Old English word “worthship” meant to acknowledge someone’s worth. It meant giving to God everything he’s worthy of.
- In biblical Hebrew and Greek, worship had a dozen or more nuances – including seeking, bowing down in reverence, sacrificing, serving, singing, giving thanks to, glorifying and more.

2. The Heart of Worship.

- How do you glorify and enjoy a God who says, “*I am the fountain of living water ... I am the bread of life ... I am the good shepherd ... etc.*”?
- The heart of worship is being fully satisfied in God – Father, Son, and Spirit – and sharing your delight with others.

3. The Renewal of Worship.

If you don't feel that way about God, what can you do?

a. Identify. (What do I glorify, seek, love, trust, delight in, etc.?)

b. Repent. (Change your mind about what is most worthy.)

c. Believe. (Continue to read the Word and pray, trusting that God is all the things he says he is, has done what he says he's done, and will do what he promises to do.)

d. Replace. (Expel the old gods with a new and greater affection for Christ.)



Questions to explore individually and with your group:

1. How would you have defined or described worship before this message?
2. Describe your practices of worship now. When? How often? How much? What feels like worship when you're doing it? What do you observe?
3. Make 3 lists off the top of your head: 1) things God is; 2) things God has done; 3) things God has promised. Pick one truth from each list.
 - What would it look/sound like to worship God in light of that truth?
 - How was that experience different than how you normally "worship"?
 - Keep adding to these 3 lists and take time to worship God daily. What are you beginning to notice as you practice worshipping this way?
4. If you set a timer to go off randomly throughout your day, and you had to stop and pay attention to what you were functionally worshipping each time it went off, what do you think you'd observe?
5. What are some things you instinctively default to worshipping. What do you seek after and look to as:
 - A source of your identity, self, self-worth?
 - A source of your hope, meaning, purpose?
 - A source of rescue, protection, safety?
 - A source of contentment, satisfaction, comfort?
 - A source of joy, pleasure, delight?
6. Look at your answers to #5. How is this kind of worship similar to or different from the way you think about worshipping God? What are you seeing about the true heart of worship?
7. Describe a time in your life when you experienced "the expulsive power of a new affection." What happened?
8. Applying #7 to your relationship with God: What are some practical ways to fuel your love and appreciation for Father, Son, and Spirit? What are some ways to immerse yourself in enjoying and delighting in him?
9. What's one practical, specific thing you'll do with the message this week?